

Appl. No. 09/676,722
Amendment dated: JULY 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: July 7, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 22-46 are pending in the instant application. Applicant has canceled claims 8-21 without prejudice. Applicant intends to further prosecute independent claims 8 and 15 in a subsequent continuation application. New claims 35-46 have been presented.

Claims 9-14 and 16-21 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant is re-submitting claims 9-14 and 16-21 as new claims 35-46. More specifically, new claim 35 incorporates the limitations of cancelled claims 8 and 9, and new claim 41 incorporates the limitations of cancelled claims 15 and 16. Therefore, Applicant believes that new independent claims 35 and 41 are allowable. In addition, new claims 36-40, corresponding to cancelled claims 10-14, and new claims 42-46, corresponding to cancelled claims 17-21, depend upon the allowable independent claims 35 and 41, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all new claims 35-46 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 and 22-34

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-7 and 22-34.

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CONCLUSION

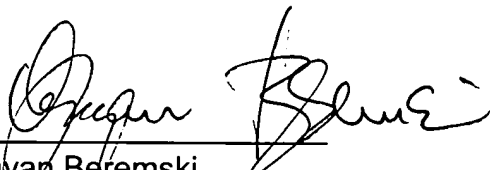
Based on at least the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests a phone interview, and requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 312-775-8000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

A Notice of Allowability is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 16, 2004



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